



# LAKESHORE HOUSING ALLIANCE

## Financial Assistance Programs Spotlight

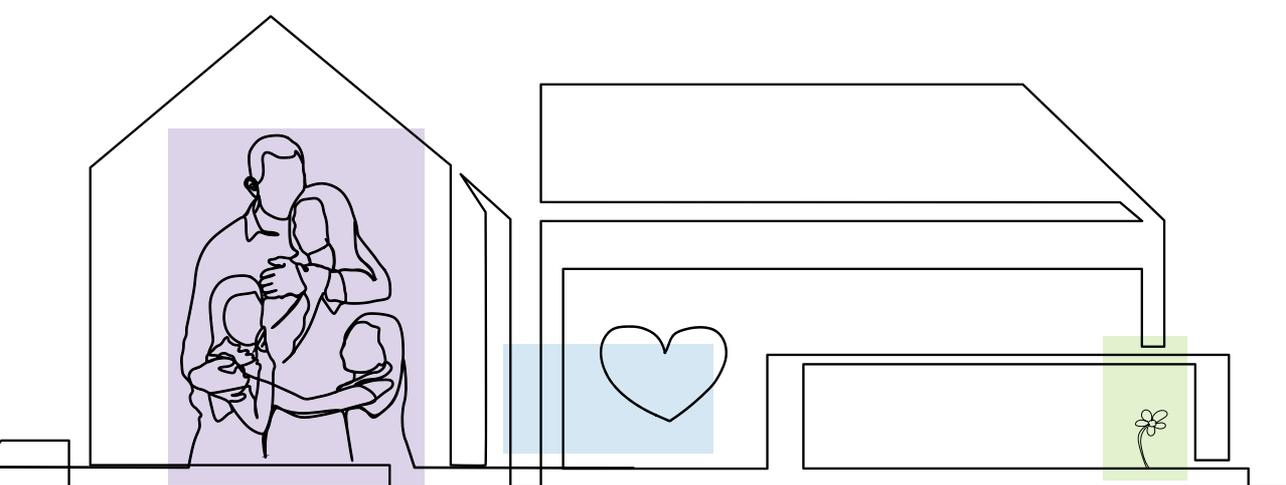
Lakeshore Housing Alliance member agencies offer financial assistance programs including rent, utilities and mortgage designed to help households maintain and achieve long-term housing stability. Preventing eviction eliminates the trauma connected to losing housing.

### Principles of Homelessness Prevention (National Alliance to End Homelessness)

- 1 CRISIS RESOLUTION**  
Rapid assessment, personal safety, and realistic action steps for the individual.
- 2 CLIENT CHOICE**  
Homelessness prevention services must help people in crisis regain a sense of control.
- 3 MINIMUM ASSISTANCE**  
Provide “just enough” to prevent homelessness. This way, the program can help more people.
- 4 MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY RESOURCES**  
Mainstream assistance programs are intended to be the backbone of every community.
- 5 RIGHT RESOURCES, RIGHT TIME**  
The earlier a program intervenes in a housing crisis, the lower the cost.

### Good Samaritan Ministries

Administering the largest homelessness prevention program in the county. In a typical year, GSM serves **20** households (45 people) with financial assistance to help maintain housing. From April to December 2021, at least **1,253** households representing **2,089** people were assisted.



If you or someone you know anywhere in Ottawa County is in need of rental assistance, please contact Good Samaritan Ministries at **616-392-7159** or [hara@goodsamministries.com](mailto:hara@goodsamministries.com). Contact the Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (CALL) by dialing 2-1-1 for other community resources.

The Meyers had been without heat since the end of winter 2021 when they connected with **The Salvation Army of Grand Haven**. While they utilized the shut off protection plan, when the final bill was due, they still owed over \$1,200. With The Salvation Army financial assistance, the heat was turned back on. The Meyers were referred to other local non-profits to help with other needs.

Housing Supports, Rental and Utility assistance from **The Salvation Army** and the **Ottawa County Community Action Agency** provided heat and lights to 350+ households.

### The Salvation Army

Grand Haven

**97** People Served

### Ottawa County Community Action Agency

**302** Households Served

The Salvation Army of Holland helped **56** households, totaling **613** people with rent/mortgage.

The Salvation Army of Holland helped this young mom:

Sofia moved to Holland escaping an abusive relationship, building a quiet life here for her children. This year has been challenging as Sofia faces health problems, a death in the family, and unexpected car expenses. She is working at a job she loves, but just like so many families in Ottawa County, struggles to make ends meet. Sofia reached out to The Salvation Army in Holland. She was assisted with rent, and her family was adopted through The Salvation Army Christmas program. Sofia says, “I am not one to ask for help normally because I am a fighter for my babies and our well-being, but this time I am needing support in any way possible.”

**The LHA is committed to bringing an end to homelessness.** Key to success is building the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive community response to provide people with stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and social-emotional well-being.